

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 30, 2008.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant's undersigned counsel would like to thank the Examiner for the courteous and productive telephone discussion held on April 27, 2009, the details of which are set forth below.

The Examiner has required that a single invention be elected for prosecution, and identified 21 separate inventions in the claims (Groups I – XXI as detailed in the Office Action).

The Examiner has also indicated that independent claim 25 links the inventions of Groups I-X and that independent claim 36 links the inventions of Groups XI-XXI. It is Applicant's understanding that, upon the allowance of a linking claim, the dependent claims from other non-elected groups will also be allowed.

Claim 25 is amended herein to specify a cliché.

Claims 25-48 are pending.

Summary of April 27, 2009 Telephone Discussion

During a telephone discussion with the Examiner on April 27, 2009, Applicant's undersigned counsel inquired as to whether amending independent method claim 36 to include certain elements of independent device claim 25 would enable the Examiner to withdraw the election requirement as between these independent claims. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment would result in such a withdrawal of the election requirement between the independent claims, as claim 25 would not recite a cliché as set forth in claim 36. The Examiner indicated that, rather than the proposed amendment to claim 36, if claim 25 were amended to recite a cliché, the election requirement would be withdrawn as to the two independent claims.

Claim 25 is amended herein as suggested by the Examiner.

Application No. 10/594,535

Provisional Election with Traverse

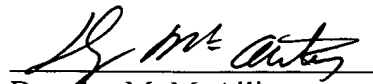
Applicant provisionally elects Group III drawn to claims 25 and 28, together with claims 36 and 39. Based on the above-described telephone discussion with the Examiner and in view of the amendment to claim 25, Applicant respectfully submits that at least claims 36 and 39 fall within elected group III and should be examined together with claims 25 and 28.

Further, with the amendment to claim 25, reconsideration and withdrawal of the election requirement is respectfully requested. Each claim now requires the use of a cliché, a pad, a primary guide, and a secondary guide. The Examiner has already recognized that claim 25 links inventions I through X and claim 36 links inventions XI through XXI. Accordingly, with the amendment to claim 25, it is respectfully submitted that the invention set forth in claims 25 and 36 are not distinct.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the election requirement, and to examine all the pending claims. In the event that the Examiner is not in agreement with the foregoing, the Examiner is requested to examine the provisionally elected claims 25, 28, 36, and 39.

Should there be any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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